



## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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### CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON AN ECONOMIC STIMULUS-FUNDED HIGHWAY PROJECT IN WALKER COUNTY

WALKER COUNTY – Construction work will soon begin on the second highway project in Northwest Georgia, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The project includes over three miles of resurfacing on State Route (SR) 1 Business, beginning at SR 1/U.S. 27 and extending to SR 1 in the city of Lafayette in Walker County. The resurfacing of I-575 in Cherokee and Cobb counties was the first economic stimulus funded project to receive the notice to proceed in the 17 counties of Northwest Georgia. Work on that project began the third week of last month.

Work on the resurfacing SR 1 Business in Walker County will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2009. The construction plan for this project calls for working every night Tuesday through Thursday from 7 p.m. until 6 a.m., and from 7 p.m. on Friday night continuously through the weekend until 6 a.m. on Monday morning. This construction work plan is intended to minimize the impact of construction on traffic in the city of Lafayette. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of April 2010, at a construction cost of \$687,392.

“Georgia DOT wants to constrict traffic flow in the area as little as possible, while working on this stimulus-funded project,” said Kent Sager, district engineer at the DOT office in Cartersville. “We have made every effort to minimize the impact this resurfacing project has on the traffic the highway carries during the day. Working at night and continuously on weekends; scheduling the lane closures after the evening rush hour, and reopening these lanes before the morning rush hour; and informing the public in advance of all scheduled lanes closures are only a few examples of these efforts,” he added.

The resurfacing of SR 1 Business is among nine ARRA funded highway projects in Northwest Georgia. Work on the seven remaining projects is expected to begin this fall. Cumulatively, they are valued at over \$48 million. They range from adding turn lanes on U.S. 41 in Bartow County, and resurfacing Highway 140 in Cherokee County, to improving the intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Pine Grove Road in Catoosa County, and replacing the bridge on County Line Road over Polecat Creek on line between Gordon and Murray counties.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is responsible for 70 percent of Georgia’s \$932 million in highway system stimulus funds. The remaining 30 percent goes to the state’s 15 metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), which are funding projects directly from their respective allocations. The state also is receiving \$144 million in stimulus funds for public transit and is eligible for additional highway, rail and aviation grants from funds totaling \$12.1 billion.

The ARRA is a national effort to create jobs and transform America’s economy to compete in the 21st century. Nationwide, some \$48 billion in stimulus investments are being made in transportation infrastructure, including highways, public transit, high speed rail and aviation. As noted previously, Georgia DOT has created a Web page ([www.dot.ga.gov/gastimulus](http://www.dot.ga.gov/gastimulus)) devoted to stimulus activities to provide specific program information and promote transparency of the process.

The State Transportation Board determines policy and exercises general governance of Georgia’s Department of Transportation. The Board’s 13 members, representing each of the state’s congressional districts, serve staggered, five-year terms. Board members are elected by those state senators and representatives whose legislative districts fall within all or part of the relevant congressional district.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia’s economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site ([www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov)).

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